

In the past too many towns and cities annexed areas, but failed for years to provide adequate service to "new residents." Therefore, in 1959 the North Carolina General Assembly adopted annexation laws which clearly define State policy with respect to municipal annexation or urban areas. It was declared that as a matter of State policy.

1. Sound urban development is essential to the continued economic development of North Carolina.
2. Municipalities are created to provide the governmental services essential for sound urban development and for the protection of health, safety and welfare in areas being intensely used for residential, commercial, industrial, institutional and governmental purposes or in areas undergoing such development.
3. Municipal boundaries should be extended in accordance with LEGISLATIVE STANDARDS applicable throughout the State to include such areas and to provide the high quality of governmental services needed therein for the public health, safety, and welfare.

The annexation law sets forth the controlling conditions and procedures to be followed by local governmental units in undertaking a program of annexation. These require a municipality, prior to annexation of any area, to prepare a report and maps stating future plans for the extension of each major city service to the area to be annexed and the method of financing. Such a report must include the following:

1. A general and engineering description of the area proposed to be annexed.
2. A statement showing that the area proposed to be annexed meets the legislative standards prescribed by G. S. 160.453.16; which generally includes the following:
  - a) The area to be annexed must be contiguous to the city limits.
  - b) At least one-eighth ( $1/8$ ) of the total boundary of the area must coincide with the municipal boundary.
  - c) No part of the area may be within another municipality.
  - d) Part or all of the area must be developed for urban purposes.